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THE GENESEE FARMER.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1836.

The Hessian Fly.

One of our new subscribers in Ohio, has expressed a wish to see a dissertation on the Hessian fly, and as it may be acceptable to other of our readers, we shall attempt to furnish briefly, the most important of the information which we possess respecting it.

This insect belongs to the order DIPTERA, which includes all those insects having only *two wings*, and to the genus *Tipula*. The number of species belonging to this genus are numerous, amounting to more than one hundred and thirty of those hitherto known and described, and as many of these resemble each other, care is necessary in observations on the Hessian fly, that no mistakes are made in identifying the species.

The following description of the Hessian fly, (*Tipula vaginalis tritici* of Mitchill,) is given by Dr. Akerly, in the American Magazine and Critical Review, of August, 1817. "It is a very small black insect, not so large as the moscheto of this place,* with two fine transparent wings, from the roots of which, three ribs diverge, as through the leaf of a plant. The body, when examined by a microscope, is found to be divided into four segments, with a few hairs observable on each. The legs are of a yellowish cast, and transparent; the head inflected, with a short proboscis."

This, in common with nearly all other insects, passes through four distinct stages of existence: 1, the *egg;* 2, the *larva*, or maggot; 3, the *pupa*, or dormant state; and 4, the *perfect winged insect.* In this part of the country, it passes through two generations in one season, and attacks the wheat both in the spring and in the autumn. The fly, or perfect insect, deposits its eggs in the autumn, soon after the young plants appear above ground, between the lowest part of the leaf and that part which forms the main stem or straw, and as near the root as possible. "It resembles, at first, a very small white nit, and as it grows larger becomes a sluggish and almost inanimate maggot, of a white color. In this state, the proper and most natural food is the sap or juice of that kind of green wheat which has the most delicate straw."† It remains in this situation through the whole winter, apparently in the chrysalis state, without suffering any injury from the frost or snow; and in the spring, as soon as the weather becomes warm enough, and generally about the time vegetation has fairly commenced, it is transformed into the fly. In this state it performs the functions necessary for a continuation of its species. It lays its eggs between the straw or stem and the sheath which encloses it, as before described, and dies; and a new generation succeeds.

These eggs are soon hatched by the warmth of the season; and the young insects may be discovered in the form of small white maggots, within the sheath of the straw, and just above the lower joints. They here continue to feed upon the sap and tender fibers of the plant, by which it either withers and dies, or is stunted in its growth, so that the grain does not arrive at maturity. They are changed into the pupa state before harvest, and at this season, while the wheat is yet green, their presence may be readily detected by walking through the field and pressing the heads with the fingers; those which feel soft, and unfilled with grains, are those which have been injured by the insect, and if the stalk be examined they will be found near the lower joints, somewhat resembling a flax seed, but smaller and slenderer, and of a dark brown color. They continue in this state till after harvest, and may be found upon the stubble in the field. Early in autumn they pass into their winged state, and lay their eggs in the young plants of wheat as before described.

When the fly is about to issue from the pupa into the state of perfect insect, it disengages itself by boring a small round hole through the brown case in which it is enclosed, and through the sheath of wheat just opposite to the place where it lodged, and this hole may be easily discovered as long as the stubble remains entire.*

With regard to the time of undergoing its final transformation the first time in the season, Judge Havens observes, "The size of the maggot when full grown, and the time necessary to complete its growth, depend in a great degree upon the quantity of nourishment it may obtain from the grain, and the number of maggots that may happen to be on one straw. This, according to the best of my observations, is somewhere between four and six weeks, which will bring the time, in which its growth will generally be completed, to the first part of June. But here the several causes of variation in the time of its being laid in the wheat, and of its completing its growth, both conspire to render this time so various, that some will be full grown, and others transformed into a chrysalis [pupa], while others are small; and this circumstance has no doubt led many skilful observers to suppose, that there are two complete generations of the insect before harvest." The second time that the fly issues from the pupa, depends also in a great degree, on circumstances. "It generally," says Havens, "begins about the 20th or 25th of August, and continues in a greater or less degree through the whole month of September, but by far the greater part of the species are without doubt transformed into a fly, in the first part of this latter month."

By understanding the history of this insect, we are enabled to apply the means for its destruction, or for escaping its ravages. As it remains upon the stubble in the pupa state after harvest, the first means to be used, is, *to destroy the stubble soon after cutting the wheat.* This is to be done either by ploughing or by burning. If by the former, the pupa is buried in the earth, and is thus prevented from changing to the fly; or if it changes, it cannot escape. Unless therefore, the stubble be completely buried, the experiment will not succeed, consequently the deeper the ploughing the better. If by the latter, the stubble must be entirely burnt in order that the destruction may be complete, for, as the insect lies near the root, it will escape, unless the fire be well applied.

But the best method of preventing the mischief occasioned by it, is to *sow so late, that the wheat will not be above ground, until the autumn fly has perished.* As the fly is in the state of greatest activity early in September, the wheat which is up at that season, will be most liable to be destroyed; on the contrary, if the sowing is deferred till a month later, it will in a great measure escape. It is supposed that a single frost will destroy all the insects while in the state of the fly, and if the wheat is not up before such an occurrence, no danger whatever is to be apprehended.

In endeavoring however, to escape one calamity, it is necessary to avoid the opposite evil. If the grain is sown too late, there will be danger, as is obvious, of its suffering from the effects of the frost of winter, or in other words, of being *winter killed.* Hence a middle course must be adopted. It may also be observed, that as there is a decided advantage in *early* sowing where wheat is not attacked by the fly, it would not be advisable where no danger of such attack is to be apprehended, as is the case in some places, to sow late in order to avoid its ravages.

The best evidence in favor of late sowing, as a means of preventing injury from the fly, is experience. Among other instances, two are related by a correspondent of this paper in Pennsylvania, (vol. 3, p. 321,) who waited till the first autumnal frost, when his grain was sowed and covered as speedily as possible. The result was, that next harvest he had a good crop of excellent wheat, while his neighbors on each side of him, who sowed earlier, did not reap more than one fifth of the quantity and that injured by the fly. The other instance was this:—One half of the wheat crop was first sown, when a heavy fall of rain took place, which retared the sowing of the rest until dry weather with frost; when it was harvested, the first sown was scarcely worth taking into the barn, while the latter proved an average crop of merchantable wheat. In these instances, the effect of frost in destroying the parent insect, is obvious.

Although the *autumn* fly is considered as the cause of the far greater part of the mischief,

* Its body is about one-ninth of an inch in length.
† Havens on the Hessian fly, in Agric. Trans. New York, vol. 1. p. 77.

* Havens.

much injury is often committed by the *spring* fly. This is more especially the case where the wheat is sown too *late* in the fall, and is not of sufficient vigor the next season to out-grow the effects of the injury. This is an additional reason for selecting a medium period for sowing. An instance of the efficacy of this course, will be found on page 81 of the current volume of the Genesee Farmer.

In conclusion, therefore, we would recommend, as the best general rule for escaping the ravages of the Hessian fly, to sow, if the season and circumstances will admit, immediately after the first frost, on ground which has since harvest been kept clear from all vegetable growth* which might serve as a refuge for it, and never in any case to sow before the early part of October. But as additional facts brought to light by further experiments, cannot fail to be useful, we shall close this article by repeating the suggestion of Judge Havens:—"Let those who may have leisure and curiosity on this subject, and who reside in different parts of the country where the insect may prevail, sow small patches of different kinds of wheat, as often as once or twice in a month, during the whole season, adjoining to some field of wheat or stubble, where the insect may be found in greatest number; and let its progress be observed on those different patches of wheat, and the result of the observations be collected and compared with each other."

Purple Cape Broccoli.

Both Broccoli and Cauliflower have been justly ranked among the first of garden luxuries. While the former possesses all the delicious qualities of the latter, it has the advantage of requiring much less attention and care in cultivation, for when the mode of raising it is understood, its culture is as easy and simple as that of any common cabbage. It must be understood that it is only the *purple cape*, that we recommend, the cultivation of the other varieties having been abandoned in this country, in consequence of the ill success attending it. Hence the importance of obtaining the *true seed* of this variety.

The great point on which success depends, is the *time of sowing*. If sown too early, the plants will have advanced too far towards maturity before the heat of the summer is over, which always injures them; for they will not produce their dense clusters of flowers, (which forms the delicious edible portion of them,) until the commencement of the cooler season, consequently they must remain stationary through the summer heat if they are too forward; from this check they never entirely recover. If, on the contrary, they are sown too late, they do not attain that perfection which is necessary, before frosty weather. In order to avoid both of these extremes, they should be sown about the *middle of May*, which will in general bring them to perfection before winter, and without causing any check during summer. If sown at this time, they will be fit to transplant in little more than a month, at which time they will be of as large size as they should be for setting out. They should be transplanted in very rich ground, freshly stirred up, at a distance of from two to two and a half feet apart, and the soil about them kept mellow by hoeing during summer, in fact they are to be treated precisely as cabbages.

It is seldom that the grub injures plants of this nature set out so late; if any however should commit any depredations, they must be searched out early in the morning and killed; and the places they have made vacant supplied by new plants left in the seed bed for this purpose.

In the latter part of August they will begin to form heads of flowers, in September the greater part will appear, and will continue to advance to perfection till the approach of cold weather. They are not at all injured by a common autumnal frost.

The only difficulty attending them, is raising the seed in this country.

* It is not probable that this insect attacks any other than culmiferous plants; it is known to attack rye and barley, and possibly it may feed upon other plants of this natural order; if so, these would furnish a habitation for it through winter, unless they were destroyed.

Preparation of Rennet.

The following has been recommended as an excellent mode of preparing rennet skins. Kill the calf about ten hours after it has last sucked, take out the maw skin, and let it remain on a cool place about three hours. Then empty the maw, taking care not to wet it, and rub it well with salt on both sides, afterwards cover it with salt and place it aside. Turn and rub it every day for about three days, and then open it and stretch it on a stick that it may dry evenly. It is of great importance that it be well prepared, as good cheese cannot be made without it. Rennet one year old is considered best.

Rennet is prepared for immediate use as follows. Make two quarts of brine of sufficient strength to float an egg, and when it has cooled to about blood heat, put in one rennet skin cut in small pieces, and let it steep about forty-eight hours, then strain and bottle it for use.

To determine the quantity of this preparation to be applied to a given quantity of milk, it must be observed that one skin, well prepared, will produce about 250 pounds of cheese, (although some have produced much more,) and that from 45 to 60 quarts of milk, (according to its richness,) will produce about fifteen pounds of fresh cheese. From these data, the necessary quantity of each at any time may be easily determined. The temperature of the milk when the rennet is applied should be from 80 to 90 degrees of Fahrenheit; it should be a little warmer in cool than in hot weather, as it will then become sooner cold. The heat causes the milk to coagulate sooner, but if it is too hot the cheese will be tough and spongy; if too cold, it will coagulate imperfectly or not all, the cheese will be liable to sour in hot weather, or will be rendered brittle. In from one hour to an hour and a half, the rennet will have converted the milk into curd fit for the knife, which will be indicated by the color of the whey.

Good Seeds.

Few farmers are aware, for few farmers are in the habit of making accurate observations on such topics, how much is depending on the quality of the seeds used by them. A few kernels of chess in wheat, a few kernels of oats in barley or spring wheat, are things that too many deem unworthy of notice; yet in the end, by lessening the quantity of the crop and lowering the price of the remainder they seriously affect the final profit of the cultivator. A man has a a little smut in his wheat; he sees the ends of the kernel are darkened, yet without liming, or even washing, he uses this wheat for seed, thus running the risque of spoiling his crop, and to a certainty perpetuating the evil. There is many a farmer too indolent or too careless to adopt any extraordinary measures to preserve his seed corn, and the consequence very frequently is, that poor seed is planted, much of it fails to grow, and what does after a long time germinate produces yellow sickly plants, and his labor is expended in producing not more than half a crop, when, with a little care, all uncertainty and loss might have been avoided. Farmers cannot be too careful in using none but pure and bright seed. We have known many a one suffer by the neglect of such precautions; we never knew a man regret that he had adopted them. G.

Gooseberries.

Unless we much misunderstand the signs of the times, the current of public opinion is at the present moment setting strongly against the imported, or, as they are more generally termed, English varieties of gooseberries. There can be two reasons assigned for this state of feeling, one of which is the great uncertainty which attends their fruit reaching perfection; and the other is the fact that in richness of flavor they are inferior to some varieties of our native ones. These objections in the main appear to be well founded, and as such are certainly deserving the attention of those who wish to engage in the cultivation of this excellent fruit.—That the English gooseberry sometimes arrives at maturity unaffected by the mildew is certain; but the chance is very small that it will do so, and it is extremely tantalizing to the grower to see the plague spots spreading over his fruit, and at once placing them beyond the reach of hope. The attack of this disease, for such the mildew is, is the more disagreeable, from the fact that gardeners have as yet discovered no remedy in any measure adequate to the evil. While the native varieties remain untouched, the foreign kinds standing near are entirely destroyed. We had a few bushes last year, the fruit of which with a few exceptions was free from mildew, while a friend who had a fine row of them and whose bushes were early in the season loaded with the fruit, did not gather one that was fit to eat.

While all admit they are much larger and fairer, and when free from mildew a most splendid fruit; still to our palate the foreign varieties lack that condensed richness and fragrance which belong to some of ours; and beauty though a good thing in itself can hardly be considered a fair set off for flavor when the palate is to be the judge of merit. On the table we are sensible a plate of our half prickly wildwood fruit can hardly compare with the round plump glossy skins of the English kinds; yet there are few, who, so far as taste is concerned, would not resolute-

ly prefer those grown from our own native shrubbery. That these may be improved in size we have no doubt, and if it can be done without sacrificing flavor and richness all would hail such improvement; but if this cannot be done, if each advance in size and beauty deteriorates them in quality, why then we say give us our old fashioned berries, smaller in size but free from disease and rich in all the qualities that constitute one of the most delicious fruits in the world. G.

Currants.

Among the great numbers of fruit bearing shrubs and vines, there are few more worthy of notice, or which better repay the expense of cultivation than the currant. It is an abundant bearer; of easy culture and rapid growth; and whether dried or fresh, is convertible to a great variety of uses in culinary operations. In this country we have three kinds; the red, which is the most common; the white or rather yellowish, since when ripe it has a slight yellow hue; and the black, which is chiefly cultivated and valued for its medicinal qualities. Of these varieties we much prefer the white; as the fruit is usually much larger than the red; it possesses more saccharine matter when ripe, and is consequently better adapted for the table; and from it a wine by proper management may be produced superior to many of the imported wines. No man, however small may be the piece of land he owns and cultivates should neglect the growth of the gooseberry, currant, &c. as they occupy little room, and contribute much to the comfort of a family, besides preventing so far the thankless business of begging fruit, or saving many a sixpence in its purchase. Currants are grown, where the roots are not to be procured, or where new kinds are to be introduced, by cutting shoots of six or eight inches in length, making a shallow furrow in the earth, and placing them at proper distances in a slanting position with one or two buds above the surface. In this way they will hardly fail of growing well. The earlier in the spring the operation of setting the shoots is performed the better; although they will frequently do well until the buds are fully swelled. Gooseberries may also be propagated in the same manner, though their growth is not quite so certain; and neither they or currants, when set in this way, require any other care than that the shoots should be kept clean of grass and weeds for a year or two. In making selections for setting, none but the first kinds for size and flavor should be chosen, as a bush the fruit of which is small and worthless will occupy as much room as one which unites all the good qualities desired. G.

Look to your Pork.

Experience has shown that pork packed when frozen is in general not as sweet and good as that packed when unfrozen, and that extraordinary measures are sometimes required to preserve it in a decent state. Those who packed pork in this state, either for sale, or for family use, will do well to examine it soon, if they have not already done so; and if they find it in any degree defective, immediately remedy it, by turning off the brine, boiling and scumming it, and adding to it before returning it, a sufficient quantity of salt to strike through the pork at once. We have within a few days noticed a quantity of pork somewhat injured in quality by being packed in this state; and there is undoubtedly much in the country that would be benefitted by timely attention.

The Williamson Apple.

Mr. Tucker—I redeem my pledge made last year, by sending you a quantity of the grafts of the Williamson Apple, to furnish such of my brother horticulturists and agriculturists as desire to obtain this valuable variety of apple.

Yours truly, W. W. B.

Hammondsport, April 20, 1836.

☞ Such of our friends as are desirous of procuring the above scions, can do so by applying at this office.

Ornamental Plants.

In the last number of the Boston Horticultural Register, Professor Russell has given a dissertation on Roses, from which we copy two paragraphs:

Semi-double Michigan Rose!

"The *Rosa multiflora*, so distinguished as a foreign variety of climbing roses, is likely to meet with a compeer, if not a rival, in a semi-double variety of our *R. rubifolia*, the vigor and luxuriance of which, as a species, is so well known. A native seedling of the above description was shown me last summmer, found on an island in the Ohio River; but not being in blossom, I could only trust to the account of my informant for the splendor of its flowers. Should this prove permanently a multiplex variety, it must take the place of the *multiflora* for out-door culture, being perfectly hardy."

We are not informed that any attempts have been made to propagate this remarkable variety, but we should have great cause for regret if it should be neglected and suffered to perish. *Rosa rubifolia* grows freely from cuttings if taken of a proper length. The seeds of this variety ought also to be saved and planted, for there would be just ground for the hope that some of them would produce double or semi-double varieties. The gardener who should produce such a plant might consider it a treasure.

Among several plants of this Rose which we obtained from Detroit, we observed much diversity of color; and as it is perfectly adapted to our climate, we have no doubt that in some future period, a long list of its varieties will be enumerated. Even now, in its unimproved state, it is one of our most ornamental climbers.

Budding Roses.

"Late in the summer of last year, I inserted into the stems of the Maiden's Bush Rose, several curious new varieties, which I did not before possess. I found considerable difficulty in properly lifting the bark, by the usual cut of the T, and had recourse to an experiment of cutting off the head of the stem, then opening the bark by a longitudinal incision, and pushing down the bud. After securing it in the usual method, I was surprised at the rapidity of granulation and union of bud and stock, and the superior growth of the evolved branch over those inserted in the ordinary way. It will be perceived that this was in effect, grafting under the bark as used with scions of the pear, with this difference, that the scion of the pear may have several eyes, whereas this was but a thin longitudinal section of wood and bark and *one* eye, such as is always used in ordinary budding."

Manure

When applied to land, has a tendency to produce in the plants which grow upon it, a growth of leaves and stalks, at the expense of seed. While on the other hand, on land not rendered rich by manure, the plants produce a greater amount of seed, and less of leaves and stalks. Hence clover for hay is greatly increased in quantity by manure, while grain crops are frequently injured if the soil is too fertile. Hence also, cabbages, cauliflowers, broccoli, onions, radishes, and salads in general, are most benefited by manure; while to peas, beans, &c. it should be applied cautiously. Seeding plants, however, require a certain degree of fertility in order to produce most abundantly, and where the soil is naturally too poor, it should be enriched by the application of well rotted manure or compost, which admits of being minutely intermixed with the soil; or what is still better, the manure should be applied to the soil in an unfermented state for some previous crop, which will bear it. Indian corn will bear a far greater amount of manure than other grain crops, because here a much greater growth of stems and leaves is required, and the manure goes principally to these during the most luxuriantly growing season, and the seed is principally formed after this season is over, when manure acts less powerfully.

The Morus Multicaulis

Is not only tenacious of life, but it can be sent with safety to every section of the country, in sealed packages. We noticed the other day, a couple of boxes in Dr. Stebbins' office, one directed to the interior of Virginia and the other to Ohio, both of which contained over *one thousand* slips, besides a quantity of the roots, of the Chinese Mulberry. In relation to this plant, there can be but a little doubt of its superiority for silk worms over the other Mulberry trees. It grows with such rapidity and throws up its immense leaves so soon after a twig emerges from the ground, that, in these respects, is goes ahead of all native plants. Yet it ought not to be supposed, this tree will supersede, at once, the trees of our own climate. The White Mulberry possesses great excellence, and it should, and probably will not, be discarded for the Chinese. This tree can easily be raised from the seed, is hardy in its nature, yields abundant food for worms, and can be sold at any time, at a handsome profit. The fact is, of the different kinds of Mulberry trees, each possess their peculiar excellencies. The White Mulberry should be cultivated diligently, and gradually the Chinese introduced, so that their comparative goodness may be known, without sacrificing much in obtaining experimental knowledge. The commendations bestowed upon specific merits of one, do not necessarily detract from the goodness of the other.—*Northampton Courier.*

A great blow up.—The citizens of Bangor, (Me.) have recently been trying an experiment at the city mills, whereby they blew about six acres of ice "sky high," besides shattering several acres more. The way they do things in Maine is a caution.

COMMUNICATIONS.

LETTERS FROM A FATHER,

Living in the State of New York.

To his Son in Western Pennsylvania.

NO. XVIII.

On the Comparative Profits of Cows and SHEEP.

To MY SON—The suggestions contained in these letters relative to the fitness of your farm for the stock husbandry rather than for grain, will probably lead you to reflect on the expediency and manner of altering, in some respects, your system of farming. If you come to a decision, that the husbandry of live stock should become the principal object of your farming, then important questions will arise in your mind, and tease you for satisfactory solutions. Among the questions which it may be supposed will agitate your mind are the following. If the stock husbandry is to become your principal object, then what sort of stock is it likely will best subserve your interest? Of the three principal sorts of stock, consisting of cattle, horses and sheep, which offers to you the greatest inducements to become interested in it? I have, chiefly with a view to your interest, taken no inconsiderable pains to ascertain the profits which the animals composing these several kinds of stock, particularly cows and sheep, are capable of producing, and to compare them, with a view to know which sort of stock can be kept to the greatest advantage. The task has not been an easy one, nor can I suppose that I have made myself by any means master of the subject.

I have not entered much into the estimate of horses. That raising colts is not, under ordinary circumstances, the most profitable branch of stock husbandry, has long since been my settled opinion. That opinion has not been altered by any investigations of the subject, which I have been making. On a small scale, and in connection with only one or two good breeding mares which can be made, by their labor, to pay their own expenses, raising colts may be a tolerable business. But to keep breeding mares for little or no other use than to breed, can be no other than a losing concern. The expenses incident to raising horses under these circumstances, will far overbalance the profits. Such certainly will be the results, unless the object should be, to raise the very first rate of horses; and in order to do this, an amount of capital will be required, which ordinary farmers cannot conveniently, and certainly better not, spare for that use. My opinion is, that in your case other sorts of stock can be raised, and kept on your farm, to better advantage than horses.

Cattle and sheep are, in my opinion, the animals on which you ought principally to rely for stocking your farm. You now have in your possession some of both, and some of each sort you will always find it necessary and profitable to keep. But if it be contemplated to extend your stock husbandry, it will be advisable to know which of the two sorts is capable of being rendered the most profitable. In order to ascertain the profits of any sort of stock, two things are obviously necessary—the one, to know the expenses incident to keeping the animals—the other, the value of their produce. According to this plan of investigation, I proceed to ascertain first the annual expenses incident to keeping a cow. From my own observations, and other lights on the subject which I have been able to obtain, I judge that, on an average, it will require 1½ tons of hay, or its equivalent in other keeping, to winter a cow. This will rarely be estimated at less than $12. To keep her through the summer will require about 2½ acres of good pasture. This will be estimated differently, according to different valuations of land, but I will say, it is equal to $7. The interest on the capital vested in the cow, may be $1,50. According to this estimate, which I am satisfied does not vary far from the truth, the annual expenses incident to keeping a cow are equal to $20,50. Is it generally understood that it costs about as much to keep a cow one year as she is worth? Such appears to be the fact, and yet she is a very profitable animal. It is believed none is more so. The value of her produce is next to be estimated.

A good cow, (and when I say *good*, I mean no other than an ordinary cow of the native breed,) may, under proper management, be expected to produce annually at least 200 pounds of butter. This will be yielding at the rate of about 4½ pounds a week for 10 months, during which time it is supposed the cow will give milk. The butter then, at 12½ cents, the lowest price, will be worth $25. The skimmed milk, which may be given to the calf, or to hogs, may be worth $3. The dung which the cow will be the means of making, may be worth $1. According to this estimate, the annual produce of the cow will be equal to $29, and the balance standing to her credit, after paying the expenses of keeping her, will be $8,50. Nothing is here estimated for the expenses incident to taking care of the cow and making the butter. Be these what they may, it is clear that a handsome profit will remain, after all charges are paid. Butter making is probably the most profitable use to which dairy cows can be applied, especially when the scale of business is small, and only a few cows are kept. But when cheese making is the object, the average produce of cows, in that article, is said to range between three and four hundred pounds annually.

In regard to sheep, I assume it as my data, that it costs about the same to keep twelve sheep through a year as one cow. It requires also about the same investment of capital to gain possession of that number of sheep, as to become the owner of a cow. It may appear to cost less to *winter* twelve sheep than one cow, because sheep are not usually fed from the barn so long as cattle by several weeks. Yet they derive their living from the farm, and are justly chargeable for what they consume. If then it costs the same to keep twelve sheep as one cow, which I am satisfied will not vary far from the truth, the expense of keeping that number of sheep through a year will, according to preceding estimates, amount to $20,50. Let us see now what will be the value of their produce.

The fleeces of twelve sheep may weigh 36 lbs. This quantity of wool, at 50 cents a pound, may be worth $18. The lambs which the flock will produce, may be worth $8. The annual income then from the twelve sheep, will be $24, while the expenses incident to keeping them will be $20,50. The result is, a clear profit of $3,50. From these estimates, it appears that keeping sheep is a profitable branch of husbandry, but I think it appears that keeping good dairy cows is still more profitable. In either case the husbandman receives considerable more than a full compensation for all his labor, and the use of the land which is devoted to these purposes. Under such circumstances, how can he fail of becoming a thrifty farmer?

In cases where large farms are cultivated—or where the proprietors of good grazing farms do not understand the dairy business—or have not convenience for carrying it on advantageously—or have not a taste for that branch of rural industry, it is believed sheep stock offers greater inducements to become interested in it than any other. It is unquestionably one of the most sure and profitable branches of husbandry. I have little doubt that the inhabitants of Western Pennsylvania will soon begin to understand and realize the import of this remark.

To apply the subject of this letter more particularly to your own case, and that of others whose circumstances may be similar to yours, I have still to make several remarks. It will be necessary for you to keep, as you now do, a small flock of sheep. This you need not extend much beyond what will be required to supply wool for your own domestic use. Good dairy cows will be more profitable to you than sheep. I think so, not only because cows are, in my opinion, capable of yielding greater profits than sheep, but because I am satisfied that you have a taste for that branch of husbandry. I am satisfied too, that your companion has a taste for it, and is well qualified for a good dairy mistress. These things are essential. My advice to you is, to avail yourself, as soon as practicable, of a few good dairy cows. If the cows now in your possession are not good, put them off and get better ones. Keep none but such as are good. Keep no other but good stock of any kind. To this last article of advice you ought to attach great importance, for it reveals one of the principal secrets of good stock husbandry. While inferior stock is a nuisance to its owner, good stock makes him rich.

To close my remarks on the subjects of which I have now been treating, I will advert, though with reluctance, to those serious misfortunes and discouragements which you, and many others in that vicinity, have experienced in the loss of cattle. The disease which has proved so fatal, is said to be murrain, and yet the cause of it is supposed to be blood-suckers, otherwise called leeches. Whether the true cause or nature of the disease is yet known, must, I think, be considered as doubtful. If the disease is caused by blood-suckers, why has it not prevailed, and always prevailed, in all places? Blood-suckers are to be found every where.

Many years since, a similar disease, which was called murrain, prevailed here and carried off many cattle. Subsequently nothing of it has been known among us. Be the disease what it may, or whatever may be its cause, you think you have found a remedy for it. In this I hope you will not find yourself mistaken. For the satisfaction and benefit of interested inquirers, I would gladly publish the remedy, if I could do it correctly.

The article to be given as medicine to a distempered animal is, unless I have entirely forgotten, spirits of turpentine, but I do not recollect what quantity. I understood this had proved effectual in several cases, and in every case in which it had been tried.

It is not my opinion that the recent prevalence of disease among your cattle, although it proved fatal to many of them, need operate as a discouragement from making efforts to increase and improve your cattle stock. I have no doubt, that when the country becomes better improved, cattle and sheep will be as healthy there as in any part of the world. A Father.

New York State, March, 1836.

Improved Breeds of Cattle.

BY A MONROE FARMER.

Mr. Tucker—Among the various celebrated breeds of cattle in England and America, the improved Short Horn Durhams at present are generally preferred, but whether this pre-eminence is acquired from positive experience, testing the amount of beef or dairy produced from the known quantity of food they consume, or whether it originates in fancy, I know not, for fashion often regulates the value of stock as well as other things. The Long Horned Durhams, as improved by the celebrated Bakewell, were once the boast of England—the noted cattle of Galloway were at one time called the best in the world—and many think that the beautiful red cattle of Devonshire unite more useful properties than any other of the improved breeds. But I repeat it, that it is not tested by experiments which variety will yield the most profit for the food they consume. Farmers have their prejudices—some value one animal, while others prefer another without any substantial reason, and I know of no very great inconvenience orignating from such partiality. The Devons are my favorites—they please me the best, and I think that they are better adapted to the wants and conditions of the farmer in Western New York, than any of the other improved breeds. The oxen are excellent for labor, which is a valuable property for grain growing farmers. In beef and dairy they will yield as much as any other breed from a given quantity of food—that is, they will give as much in proportion to the food they consume. Their milk is very rich, yielding a great proportion of butter and cheese—their beef is of the first quality—they fatten easily at any age, and always prove well, but the great objection to them is, that they are too small to be profitable.

It is not always the largest animals that are the most valuable, but often the reverse. If the Devons yield dairy, beef or labor in proportion to the food they consume, their want of size will not be much loss. I have been in possession of them for ten years, and have killed a few of them. I will give their weight and feeding, which will enable you to judge of their size and productiveness. On the 10th of October, 1831, commenced feeding two heifers, which were a year old the April previous—in October were fed once a day with half a bushel of mangel wurtzel each—after the first of November twice a day with three-eighths of a bushel each at a time—on the 7th of December were slaughtered, and weighed, quarters, hide and tallow, the one 587 lbs., the other 620. On the 1st of November, 1832, commenced feeding a steer which was a year old the April past—fed through November once a day with pumpkins—in December once a day with potatoes, and in January once a day with mangel wurtzel—on the 22d was slaughtered and weighed 545 lbs. In December, 1833, killed a heifer and steer—the former was 2 years old past, the latter 3 past. They were fed 6 weeks twice a day with mangel wurtzel. The heifer weighed 608 lbs. and the steer 936. In 1834, fatted a 4 year old cow—she had a calf the April previous—was milked until the first of October. Having no mangel wurtzel, she was fed once a day with pumpkins or shorts until the 10th of Dec. and weighed 724 lbs. In 1835, fed a 7 year old cow. She had a calf the April previous—was milked until the 15th of October—was fed from that time once a day with pumpkins, potatoes, or shorts, until the 14th of January, and weighed 850 lbs., which are all the Devons I have slaughtered.

I feed well, but never extravagantly, always pursuing that course which I consider the most profitable with any stock—never to allow them to lose flesh for want of food, but never pamper so as to waste fodder. My fatting cattle are pastured in summer with my other stock. In winter, or as soon as the pastures begin to fail, they have what cornstalks and straw they will consume without waste, but no hay. But it is my impression that it is of very little consequence to the generality of farmers what kind of stock they keep. We must learn to take better care of them before we can make any improvement or receive much profit. When animals are to be exposed to the winter's blast, with food scarce sufficient to sustain existence, it is of little consequence what blood they are—all are equally a loss to the keeper. And the amount of suffering which domestic animals undergo for want of shelter, food, and water, and from abusive driving, is beyond the power of description, and the loss which it causes to the farmer is equally beyond the power of calculation. Yours, &c.

Monroe Farmer.

Gypsum.

Mr. Tucker—Seeing an invitation not long since in your invaluable paper for subscribers and readers to express their opinions and state their practice in regard to their farming operations, and unwilling to leave so much blank under my hand, I am induced to state a single experiment with plaster.

Last spring I procured a few bushels of plaster in order to test its fertilizing properties by experience, having heard much said in favor of and against its application on land. I spread between two and three bushels on about two acres in one corner of my meadow, marking as far as it was sown to see if there would be any difference, and having but little faith at the time of deriving any benefit from it. I however saw in a few days the grass look more luxuriant and green where the plaster was sown, than where it was not, and at haying time was surprised to see the difference. I do not doubt, although the hay was not weighed, but that the grass crop was enhanced more than than three fold in consequence of the application, and it yielded a tolerable good crop before. The effect was wonderful.

I also sowed some plaster on some wheat, but the result was a complete failure, not perceiving any difference at harvest time in the growth of the straw, or the length of the heads. I am inclined to think that applying it to wheat, on my land especially, is useless, although I have not made sufficient comparative experiments to know for certainty; but that it is beneficial to grass I do not doubt, and that it acts afterwards as a detriment in exhausting the fertility of the soil, as some have asserted, time alone can determine.

Brutus, April 9, 1836. R. S.

Method of Growing Flax Seed

On fallow ground without injuring the wheat crop.

Plough the ground as early in the spring as practicable, then drag it lengthwise. Then sow not to exceed half a bushel of flax seed to the acre, and harrow it well with a fine toothed harrow. Nothing further need be done until the seed becomes ripe—then mow it down, and when dry it can be drawn into the barn and stamped off with horses.

The ground is then in better order for wheat than it would have been had it lain idle. The crop on rich land will be from 10 to 15 bushels to the acre.

The above statement is no visionary theory, but has been successfully practiced in Seneca county some years past. My information was had from a gentleman of the first respectability, by the name of Stephen Cook, who is a practical farmer, and has cultivated the above named crop with success. He resides at Fayette, Seneca county.

If this method of cultivation should succeed, I hope some of the fraternity of farmers will contrive to save the flax that grows on the stalk, by cutting it with a cradle, or some other way.

It is true, the flax will be coarse in consequence of being sown so thin, but it might answer for cordage or coarse cloth.

It may be well to add, that the oil makers at Waterloo are in the habit of furnishing seed to the farmers in the spring, and receive the same quantity after it is harvested without interest. Oil makers in other parts would probably be willing to do the same. Abner F. Lakey.

Palmyra, March 19, 1836.

Mr. Tucker—I rather reluctantly became a subscriber for the fifth volume of the Farmer, but unexpectedly I am highly gratified with your very useful paper, for I acknowledge myself more than compensated for my money, and the trouble of obtaining and reading thus far—and as I think that I have received much good instruction and many timely hints from both scientific men and practical farmers, I think that it is no more than reasonable, although a plain farmer, that I contribute my mite. Firstly, on

Rats and Mice.

I recollect of reading in the fifth volume (I disremember the page,) a bitter complaint from one of your subscribers about rats and mice—he wished to be informed in what way he might get rid of them. Again, in the present volume, page 106, the subject is brought up, and mention

made of poisoning them, &c., which is very impracticable and unsafe. I have had a great deal of trouble and experience with rats and mice, but especially rats, and I think that I can give my brother subscriber the necessary information; but perhaps he will say after hearing it, that he knew that before—if he did, he has not practiced it. If he had he would not complain of rats. The first complains of rats in his cellar—the last complains of rats in his barn. Now then, let me give you a joint receipt to get rid of them without the uncertain and dangerous resort to poison. I will just give directions concerning the barn, for I have had bushels of them in and about my barn and house, garden and fields; but I think there is not one on my farm now, nor has been for one year past. My friend calls them rascals and cunning thieves—so they are, but men ought to outwit them—then as they are thieves and are fond of the dark, raise up your bay at least one foot from the ground, and give them more light. Neither can they bear the cold, and therefore sleep in the ground, and by thus raising the bay it cuts off their communication from the bay to the ground, there being light and an opportunity for the cats to intercept his passage; and should they try to winter in the hay they will freeze to death. If your bay is very large,you may have conductors to conduct in the cold, such as a hollow log cut full of holes, and plan it so that your cats can go in also, and the rats will not winter nor summer in or about your barn—provided always that you have a good family of cats, and do not allow your dog to worry them, nor your children to handle them, but feed them well. But, says my friend, I might as well be tormented with rats as cats. Then take your choice. I had rather have 25 cats and no rats, than to have thousands of rats and no cats. I thought that we would do without cats. They sometimes get into mischief, and some are dirty, &c. I built me a house—I thought rat and mouse proof—laid my cellar wall in lime mortar, &c. &c. &c., but all to no purpose. They swarmed from the barn to the house, and dug holes down under my cellar wall, which is 4 or 5 feet deep, through the hard ground, and came in under the wall—cut through the cellar kitchen floor and doors into the cellar—swarmed over my cellar and through my kitchen, and were almost as bad in our sauce, milk and butter, or whatever we had in the cellar, as so many hogs. I fought them and tried many stratagems, but to little purpose, till at length I obtained a family of cats, an old cat and 3 or 4 kittens about half grown, and stationed them in the cellar kitchen; the rats did not much like their new neighbors,—the cats however killed a few of them, and banished the rest of them from both house and barn, garden and farm—farewell or adieu rats—and the mice are very scarce.

—

The Wire Worm.

Secondly, there is much complaint in the Farmer about the wire-worm. I likewise have been troubled with them, and by diligent search I hope have found a remedy, but have not proved it myself. I will suggest it to you that others may test the truth of it this coming season. It is as follows: Plough your ground in May, and sow it with buckwheat, half a bushel per acre. When it is in full blow, plough it under and sow again with buckwheat as before, and when this second crop is in full blossom, plough it in again, and sow it with wheat. This course is said to kill both wire-worms and wire grass, and at the same time enriches and prepares the ground for wheat. Do not plough again, but sow your wheat and drag lengthwise of the furrows in order to keep the buckwheat all under.

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Inquiries.

I wish to obtain information through your paper where and how and at what price I can obtain four bushels of madder seed in season to plant this present spring. Mr. Herbert Woodberry of West Winfield, N. Y. I learn from vol. 5, page 277, had a plenty last fall. If he or some other gentleman has it this spring, and can forward it to me, I shall be highly gratified, besides paying for the same. Whoever has it on hand, please to drop me a line and oblige yours.

I likewise want to obtain a few thousand of the Chinese Mulberry sets. A gentleman living in Flushing, near New York, writes that he has 60,000 for sale but does not give his price. I wish that he would give me his price, and inform me if he can forward them to Lockport in good condition for planting, and direct me how to plant them. If there is any other gentleman living nearer that has the genuine Chinese Mulberry sets for sale, please drop me a line. Direct to Russel Weaver, Lockport, Niagara co. N. Y.

Now, sir, if you think the foregoing, or any part of it, worthy of a place in the Farmer, by publishing the same you will much oblige your correspondent. Russel Weaver.

Lockport, April 10, 1836.

A Large Elder.

BY J. B. B.

Mr. Tucker—I have for some time intended to give you the dimension of an Elder tree, (*Sambucus canadensis,*) which has frequently been said to be "the most famous *Elder* in the country." Should you think it worth publication you may give it a place in your paper.

This tree or shrub was first noticed some twenty years ago by my grandparents, and "as it was the *sweet* elder," say they, "we were very careful that it should not be broken down or destroyed, for we wished to gather the blossoms annually for medical purposes." It is standing in an orchard on the farm belonging to B. Bowen, in Ledyard, Cayuga county, and has now grown to the height of fifteen feet, measuring nineteen inches in circumference one foot from the ground, holding its size to fourteen inches at half its height. It is now in a healthy state, and bids fair to brave the storm of many a winter. It is surrounded by a number of its kind, but none of them seem destined to arrive at the age and size their predecessor has attained; as they die each successive season, and new ones shoot forth to supply their place. Perhaps this is a small shrub compared with others that you or some of your readers have seen, but to me, and others who have seen it, it is the *prodigy* of its kind. I have taken particular notice since I first saw it, and have never found one that began to compare with it. If any of your readers can produce a more "*famous elder*" than *this*, we should be very thankful to hear from them.

Ledyard, April, 1836. J. B. B.

To Destroy Docks.

BY W. P. R.

Mr. Tucker—I would recommend to you and the farming community generally an implement which is intended to aid in the destruction of docks, and other long tap rooted plants that infest our fields. It is made to work like a spade, with the point like a chissel or gouge, about 3 inches in width. It should be made very strong with iron, steel pointed—the handle may be of wood. The length may be 3½ feet. The projection for the foot 4 inches long, and 8 inches from the point. The instrument is pressed with the foot down by the side of the root, then grasp the plant with the right hand, and raise it by prying with the left. Plants are easily raised in this manner entire, with roots 2½ or 3 feet long. I have used an instrument of this kind for killing docks, skokes, horseredish, and cumfry, and have used it to advantage in the garden to raise my beets, parsneps, &c. W. P. R.

Holland Patent, April 18, 1836.

P. S. I wish to ask if a little tar upon turnep and cabbage seed will not prevent injury from the fly. I used it last summer, and could find none but full grown flies on the plants. If the egg of the fly exists on the seed, I should think the tar would destroy them.

Mangel Wurtzel.

Mr. Tucker—I wish to inquire through the medium of the Farmer, the best method of cultivating the Mangel Wurtzel, and particularly in relation to the depth at which the seeds should be planted, as from some cause or other I have lost my crops for three years—probably from some error in planting, or from bad seed.

An answer to the above from some one who has had experience in growing those roots, will much oblige, Yours, &c. J. D.

From the New England Farmer.

Pasturing Stock.

Do not turn your cattle to grass too early in the spring. Dr. Deane was of opinion that the 20th of May, was, in our climate, quite early enough to permit cattle to go to pasture; and some farmers think it best to keep working oxen and horses to hay, &c. at least till the first of June. It is not right to turn all sorts of cattle into pastures together. Milch cows, working oxen and fatting beasts, should have the first feeding of an inclosure. Afterwards sheep and horses. When the first lot has been fed off, it should be shut up, and the manure which has been dropped should be beaten to pieces, and well scattered. Afterwards the second pasture should be treated in the same manner, and the rest in course, feeding the wettest pasture after the driest, that the soil may not be too much broken up by the cattles' feet.

Dr. Deane observed, that "Something considerable is saved by letting all sorts of grazing animals take their turns in a pasture. By means of this, nearly all the herbage produced will be eaten; much of which would otherwise be lost. Horses will eat the leavings of horned cattle; and sheep will eat some things that both the one and the other leave.

"Let the stock of a farmer be greater or less, he should have at least four enclosures of pasture land. One inclosure may be fed two weeks,and then shut up to grow. Each one will recruit well in six week; and each will have this time to recruit. But in the latter part of October, the cattle may range through all the lots unless some one may become too wet and soft. Feeding pastures in rotation is of greater advantage than some are apt to imagine. One acre, managed

according to the above directions, will turn to better account, some say who have practiced it, than three acres in the common way."

An English writer says, "in turning out horses to grass in the spring, it is usual to choose the forenoon of a fine day to do it in; the natural consequence is, the horse fills his belly during the sunshine and lies down to rest during the cold of the night, thereby probably exposing himself to disorders. In some parts of Yorkshire, a better practice prevails; the horse is turned out at bed-time; the consequence is, he eats all night, and sleeps in the sunshine of the next day."

It will not be proper, when you have turned your cattle to grass, to overlook or neglect them. You should see every animal every day, if you rise an hour before the sun for that purpose.

The bottom of an old hay stack is said to be excellent manure for pasture land, as besides the nourishment it affords, it contains a quantity of grass seeds, which furnishes a new set of plants. It should never be suffered to mix with manure for grain or corn lands, as it will cause them to be overrun with grass and other plants, which though useful in a pasture, are weeds in arable land.

POTATOES FOR SWINE.—Select a warm early piece of ground near your hog-pen, of about a quarter of an acre, more or less, and having made it rich with hog or horse manure, plant it with early potatoes, which will probably answer to begin to dig in July. These will, especially if steamed or boiled, be found useful in bringing forward fatting hogs before Indian corn is ripe.—*Ib.*

Seed Agencies at Genoseo and Canandaigua.

MR. I. F. WYMAN, Merchant, Geneseo, and Dr. JAMES B. DUNGAN, Druggist, Canandaigua, have each an assortment of Seeds for sale, put up at the Rochester Seed Store. apr 30-f3t

Flower Seeds and Plants.

IN addition to their former stock, the subscribers are now receiving a new supply of Flower Seeds, including many rare and extremely beautiful varieties never before introduced here. Price, 6 cents a paper—20 varieties for $1, 50 varieties for $2, 100 varieties for $4.

DOUBLE DAHLIA ROOTS.

A fine assortment from the unrivaled collection of Messrs. Buel & Wilson, Albany. These will be potted and ready for sale in a few days.

GREEN-HOUSE OR PARLOR PLANTS.

A splendid collection in a fine healthy condition for sale at low prices.

apr 30-f1f REYNOLDS & BATEHAM.

Seed Corn.

A LARGE supply of the early 12 rowed or Dutton Corn in the ear, just received at the ROCHESTER SEED STORE.

The gentleman who raised this corn writes, that "It was planted from the 18th to the 20th May—cut up on the hill from 5th to 25th Sept.—yield from 85 to 95 bushels per acre—stalks one third less than common 8 rowed yellow, and 14 days earlier."

Also—The other varieties for sale as usual.

Orders for the above and other seeds will receive prompt attention, and should be sent immediately.

apr 30-f1f REYNOLDS & BATEHAM.

Hussey's Grain Cutter.

THIS *Machine* has been successfully used in this vicinity for the two last years. It has also been used in the Western States, for cutting both grain and grass. Certificates of a number of experienced farmers who have seen the machine in operation, have been published in the Genesee Farmer, and in other papers. (See Genesee Farmer, Vol. 5, No. 16, page 128.) Further evidence of this kind is deemed unnecessary. The subscriber is duly authorized by the Patentee, to sell rights for any part of the State of New York. Machines may be had by applying to the subscriber, or to B. W. Bills, of Mount Morris. Those who wish for machines, to be ready for next harvest, will do well to apply soon. The price of a machine will not exceed $150. J. HORSFORD.

Moscow, Livingston County, N. Y. ap23f3w

Chaptals Agricultural Chemistry

A FEW copies of this new and valuable work for sale at the Rochester Seed Store.

april 9-f4t REYNOLDS & BATEHAM.

The two imported Horses,

"TURK" and "ALFRED,"

Will serve a limited number of mares this season, 1836.

"TURK,"

WAS bred by Wm. Cobb, Esq, of Lonsbro', Yorkshire, England, is 3 years old, and of a fine bay color. He was got by Goodlass' Catfoss, his dam by Rotsey's Old Volunteer, grand-dam by Battle Stephenson's noted horse Caythorp, great grand-dam by Laurence Stephenson's old horse, which went in one season to 300 mares. Catfoss was got by Young Turk, his dam by Volunteer, grand-dam by Dunsley's noted Coach horse.

The sire of "*Turk*" was allowed to be the best horse that traveled England, and carried off the premiums where rever he was shown; such was the anxiety to obtain his breed, that every gentleman put to him his own stock.

"ALFRED,"

Was bred by Mr. Fox of Byton, county of York, England, is 4 years old, and of a rich bay color, was got by Strickland's King Alfred, his dam by Mr. Stubb's old horse, grand-dam by Frank's Volunteer, great grand-dam by Harrison's horse of Sketenbec. Mr. Stubb's old horse was by Dunsley's old horse, dam by Owston's horse of Seamer. Mr. Dunsley's horse was by Agar's Old Dart, dam by Old Rainbow. Frank's Volunteer was by Milner's Old Volunteer of Brandsburton. King Alfred was bred by Sir George Strickland, and was got by Providence, dam by Nichols' Coach horse, grand-dam by Etty's Coach horse. Providence was by Peerless, dam by Volunteer, &c. &c.

The above horses are from the most valuable and celebrated breeds in England, from whence they were brought to this country by Thomas Weddle, now of East Bloomfield, Ontario county, their present owner.

TERMS.

"TURK"—20 dollars each mare,

"ALFRED"—10 dollars do.

Payment 1st January by approved notes without interest.

Those desirous of putting mares are requested to give in their names as early as possible, as the horses will only be allowed to serve a small number this season, and the list has already received many subscribers. They are the joint property of the said Thomas Widdle and George Wordon of Seneca, to either of whom reference may be made for any further particulars.

These horses will stand at Mr. Fordon's, who resides one mile south of Dr. Woodworth's Tavern, Flint Creek, on the Canandaigua and Geneva Turnpike.

Good accommodations for the mares, (which are to be at the owner's risk,) and every attention will be paid to them. THOMAS WEDDLE.

The old Norton Farm, E. Bloomfield, April 1st, 1836.

The noted Bull "ROVER," (imported by Thomas Weddle,) of the pure improved Durham Short Horn breed, will stand at Mr. Fordon's during the months of June and July next for cows, at 5 dollars each. april 9-f4t

Monroe Horticultural Garden & Nursery.

THE subscriber offers to the public a choice selection of Fruit Trees, of French, German, English and American varieties, consisting of Apples, Pears, Plums, Peaches, Cherries, Apricots, Nectarines, Quinces, Currants, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Strawberries, Ornamenta Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Hardy Roses, Vines, Creepers, Herbaceous Perennial Plants, Bulbous Roots, &c. &c.

ALSO—A few hundred of the Morus Multicaulis, or Chinese Mulberry, the White Italian Mulberry by the hunbred or thousand, Grape Vines of both native and foreign varieties, mosty of large size, for sale by the single vine, hundred or thousand, at reduced prices. The subscriber has a large collection of Green-House Plants of choice and select varieties, and in good condition.

☞ Orders for *Mr.* Rowe's Nursery received by the Publisher of this paper.

Catalogues will be sent to those who wish them, gratis, or may be had by calling at the office of the Genesee Farmer. ASA ROWE.

Greece, *Monroe* co. N. S Y. ept. 13, 1835.

Wanted,

A SITUATION as *Gardener*, by a married man with a small family, who has served his time to the business in the old country, and has had several years experience in America—who understands the management of Green and Hot Houses, and is perfect master of his business in all its departments—who has served many of the principal gentlemen in the state of New York, and to whom reference can be given if required. Letters (post paid) stating particulars will be immediately attended to. Direct to J. H., Aurora post-office, Cayuga county, State of New York. april 16-f3t

Seed Potatoes.

THE following choice varieties of Potatoes selected with care for seed, may be obtained at the ROCHESTER SEED STORE.

Early Ash leaved Kidney,
Early Frame or June,
Kidney Pink Eye,
Sault St. Marie or Black Kidney,
Foxite,—Irish Cup,
*M*ercer,—*M*ashannock,

Also for sale Rhutarb or Pie Plant, Sea Kale and Asparagus Roots. ap23f2t

Ely's Vineyard,

HALF a mile east of the Court-House, and 20 rods north of Main street, where may be had various kinds of Grape Vines, from one to six years' growth, at various prices, fsom one dollar down to six cents, according to the age and quelity of the vine. Also Grape Vine Cuttings.

ALSO—Plum, Pear, Peach, Apple, and Locust Trees, and Shrubbery of different kinds.

The infirmities incipent to old age, induces me to offer the premises for *SALE*. The lot contains two acres of land, handsomely laid out, the center part mostly filled with grape vines, surrounded with fruit trees and shrubbery—the whole nearly inclosed by a board fence and a locust hedge.

Notwithstanding the unprecented cold and frosty weather, we gathered more than 4,000 lbs. of grapes the last season. Had the season been usually good, we probably should have obtained as many as 6,000 lbs. One vine had more 1500 clusters, and we gathered 220 lbs of grapes. Had they ripened well there would have been a great addition to the weight, for as it was, many rotted on the ground. There is a decent and convenient Dwelling House on the lot nearly finished.

An indisputable title will be given, and payments made easy.

If the place is not sold, it will be let on shares for the ensuing season. ALEXANDER ELY.

Rochester, April 7, 1936. ap 9-f1f

THE SILK CULTURIST

AND FARMER'S MANUAL.

Published monthly by the Executive Committee of the Hartford County Silk Society, at 50 cents per annum. Volumes I. and II.

THE object of this publication is to disseminate a thorough knowledge of the Silk business. The cultivation of the *M*ulberry Tree in all its varieties—rearing Silk Worms—the production of Cocoons—reeling and manufacturing Silk, and Dyeing the same. The publication will contain a complete manual of the Silk Culture from sowing the seed to preparing for market—Sewing Silk and Twist—and will keep the Culturist advised with regard to the progress of the enterprise—the formation of Societies and Companies, Enactments of Legislatures for the promotion of the object, and facts, and experiments of individuals. It will also contain choice articleson new and interesting subjects connected with agriculture.

THE CULTURIST was commenced in April last, and there are now published *Five Thousand Copies* monthly, with a rapidly increasing circulation. Arrangements have been made to furnish the first volume to those who make early application for the second. Each volume will contain ninety-six quarto pages. One dollar forwarded to F. G. COMSTOCK, Secretary, Hartford, Conn. free of expense, will pay for both volumes, or fifty cents for the latter. The second volume commences the first of April. No subscriptions received unless paid in advance.

Knowing the great difficulty of obtaining genuine Seed at a distance, the Secretary of the Society will forward *White Italian Mulberry Seed for* 1000 *Trees* to those who are subscribers to the First Volume and order the *Second*, and to those who subscribe for both Volumes before the first of July next.

Hartford, Conn. April, 1836.

☞ REYNOLDS & BATEHAM, Agents, Rochester. april 16

Corn, Carrot, and Ruta Baga Crops.

Mr. Buel—Dear sir—Being unwilling to hide my light under a bushel, however humble it may be, when thousands are shining so bright around me, illuminating my path and rendering my labors more easy, more productive, and more pleasant, I have taken the liberty of forwarding for your disposal, an account of my last season's agricultural labors, so far as they are connected with the cultivation of the corn, the carrot and the ruta baga crops.

Under the influence of a strong disposition to innovate upon old theories and practices, and to mark out a new and untrodden path, where there appears room for improvement; with no reverence for usages whose merits are founded upon mere antiquity, I have commenced the agricultural life, prepared to think and act for myself.—With such a disposition, and knowing, as every man of reflection must know, that there is a great degree of ignorance on agricultural science in our country, you may well imagine that I see many things among our hard working and deserving farmers, that most emphatically require a thorough and radical change—that there is a vast amount of labor, of hard, back-aching labor, which from improper application, produces not its suitable reward--and that there are many acres of fine productive soil, which by improper management are not made to yield a return of of simple interest upon their cost.

I will acquaint you with my experiment upon the cultivation of a field of corn, of three and one third acres. The land was of the kind here denominated the oak timber land; a strong loam soil with a clay bottom. It had been three years down after wheat, without seeding, and had been previously worked pretty close. In May I carted on about thirty loads of rotton manure upon two acres of the poorest of the land, and the rest was without manure. I then ploughed it very carefully, being particular to turn the sward *all* under. I then dragged it twice with the harrow across the furrows, and then with a hand-marker having seven trails, I marked out for the rows, three feet six inches one way, by one foot nine inches the other. The ground by this time had owing to the drouth, become very dry. It was now the 19th of May; I intended to have planted by the 12, by which I should have avoided the bad effects of the drouth.

I soaked my corn, and rolled it in plaster; it was of the twelve rowed kind; I put from five to eight kernels in a hill, and covered it with moist earth. The corn came up unevenly, some not till three or four weeks after planting. On the 2d of June, I put on thirty-five bushels of leached ashes. On the 11th, ploughed out the corn with the cultivator, and hoed, throwing a little fresh earth around each hill, first thinning it out to four of the best spears in each hill. It came forward now very fast. On the 23d, went through the second time with the cultivator, but owing to a press of other business, did not hoe it. July 2d, used the cultivator the third time, and hoed the second throwing a little fresh earth in each hill. This was all the labor bestowed in the tillage of the corn; it now presented a most healthy and thriving appearance and almost shaded the ground. At this period my neighbors began to prophecy the result of my experiment, and with no very flattering terms. Without a single exception, they told me I should have but little corn, and that that little would be poor, as it grew too thick, and was too much shaded. With this array of prophetic judgment, from old and young, against me, I almost began to doubt the wisdom of my experiment, and to repent having wandered from the footsteps of my fathers. Some advised me to cut out every other row, but as I had begun to experiment, I thought it proper to carry it through. The corn grew rapidly, grew strong, and maintained its healthy color.—On the 3d of October, after an unusually cold and unfavorable season, with frost every month, and one particularly on the fourth of August which materially injured the corn crop, and one on the 16th Sept., which put a stop to its growth, I cut up my corn by the roots and stouted it off the field, and left it till the 10th of November, when I completed the husking, and stored into my grainery three hundred and twenty-two bushels of ears of good corn, besides sixty of soft or pig corn; being at the rate of about fifty bushels of corn per acre. Besides the corn, I had double the usual quantity of stalks, which in this season of scarcity, I have found very valuable.

I will now inform you of the carrot crop. Early in the spring I carted eight loads of long manure on to one eighth of an acre of tolerable rich bottom land, deep and loose, and ploughed it under; and on the 12th of May put the seed in the ground by hand, in drills fourteen inches apart. The seed did not come up well, there being frequent vacancies of from one to ten feet in length. In the course of the season the carrots were hoed twice and wed three times by hand. On the 29th October I harvested the crop, which turned out *two hundred and ten* bushel of carrots, at the rate of 1680 bushels per acre. The whole cost of tillage and harvesting was $14, including interest on land at $50 per acre; the value of a crop at two shillings per bushel, $52,50, from which deducting cost, leaves a balance of $38,50 nett gain from one eighth of an acre. I have no doubt that had the seed come up uniformly over the field, I should have had 250 bushels, which would have been 2000 bushels per acre.

Adjoining the carrot field, and of the same kind of land, and prepared in the same way, I had one tenth of an acre devoted to the culture of the ruta baga. The ground was made perpectly level, and on the 26th June the seed was sown in drills from eighteen to twenty inches apart, and came up well, as the weather was very favorable. On the first hoeing they were thinned to twelve inches apart. They were hoed but twice; and on the 12th November I harvested *one hundred and twenty two* bushels; being at the rate of 1,220 bushels per acre. Value of crop at eighteen pence per bushel, $22,87; tillage and harvesting, $6,20, leaving a balance of $16,62 nett gain from one tenth of an acre.

With regard to the carrots, they were not thinned, but left to grow as they came from the seed; but the looseness of the soil allowed them to spread, and they grew to a very great size: some measuring 17 1-2 inches in circumference, by 30 inches in length, weighing 7 1-2 lbs. The largest turnep measured 25 inches in circumference, and weighed 11 lbs; very few weighing less than 5 or 6.

I would respectfully solicit the attention of your correspondent, Thos. Milford to the account of Ruta Baga culture, as exhibiting the result of the level system, which he considers the least enlightened and the least productive.

Respectfully yours,

Cultivator.] EDWARD MILLER.

Venerable Trees.

The leading article in the Horticultural Register for April is by Gen. Dearborn on the cultivation of forest trees. It contains some curious statements respecting the ages to which trees sometimes attain. How few and fleeting do our short days appear, when we think of these "medals of distant ages!" How fitly, and with what a salutary appeal to the heart, are they planted around a family home, to link one generation of those who dwell there, with another, for hundreds and thousands of years! How beautiful, how appropriate, how easily adapted to our wishes and made to utter their solemn, their soothing, their impressive lessons according to our will, are these materials that God hath provided wherewith to erect for one's self a "living monument!"

Gen. Dearborn says:—

Adanson and De Candoll have ascertained and published accounts of the probable longevity of numerous celebrated trees. Some of the cedars of Mount Lebanon, measured in 1660 by Maundrell and Peacock, were found to be nearly eight hundred years old,—the oak of Welbeck-lane, described by Evelyn, must have been 1400, the linden of Choille 538, and that of Irons 583—the olive trees in the garden of Jerusalem certainly existed at the time of the Turkish conquest of that city, and one at Pescia in Italy had endured seven centuries. The English yew trees of Fontaine Abbey, in the county of York, have survived twelve centuries, those in the church yard of Crowhurst, in Surry, fourteen hundred.—that of Fotheringall, in Scotland, from twenty-five to twenty-six hundred,—that of Braburn, in Kent, three thousand. But they describe two other trees of a most remarkable character, viz: the Boaback, estimated to be five thonsand one hundred and fifty years old, and the Cypress of Taxodium, in Mexico, which is one hundred seventeen feet ten inches in circumference, is still more aged.

The ages of the following remarkable trees have been ascertained, with as much exactness as historical data, or the principles, which have been derived from the actual admeasurement, and counting the circles of trees of like kind afford.

	Age.
A Date tree in Egypt,	300 years.
Apricot tree in Damascus,	324
Grape Vine in Damascus,	378
Red Oak of Mount Etna,	400
Walnut tree of Balbec,	406
Almond tree of Damascus,	640
Olive tree of Palestine,	710
Fig tree of Palestine,	780
Olive tree of Asia Minor,	850
A Live Oak in Louisiana,	1000
Sycamore or Plane tree of Palestine.	1050
Sycamore of Heliopolis,	1805
One of the Cedars of Mount Lebanon,	1824
Peletin [Terebinthus] of Asia Minor,	1890
A Cedar of Mount Lebanon,	2112
The celebrated Chestnut of Mount Etna,	2660
Sycamore of the Bosphorus,	4020

The Sycamore near the ruins of Heliopolis, according to the tradition in Egypt, existed before the visit of Joseph and Mary, and that they sat under its shadow, and drank water from a neighboring well. The accumulation of mud, from the deposite of the Nile, has long destroyed the original tree, but sprouts having put forth from the stump, and forming part of a circle, calculations were formed therefrom of the size and age of the original tree, which was added to that of those which now exist.

The Sycamore of the Bosphorus, under which it is said Godfrey of the first crusading army encamped, has also disappeared, leaving ten trees, which sprang from the stump; one of which being measured was found to be 1056 years old; and it is possible others of equal age have been removed, and that the present trees are the second remove from the parent stock.

The Chestnut of Mount Etna grew from the stump of a felled tree.—*Boston Courier.*

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February, 1836. feb 20t6m*

Robbins' Planting Machine.

WITH this Machine Corn, Beans, Peas, Broom Corn, Mangel Wurtzel, Turneps, Onions, and seeds of almost every description, can be planted with more system and correctness than can be done in the usual manner of planting with the hand and hoe. One man may easily plant five acres a day, placing the seeds any given distance apart, from two or more inches, and in rows two and a half feet apart.

Machines can be had by applying to Reynolds & Bateham, Rochester; C. N. Bement, Treasurer of the State Agricultural Society, Albany; Bushrod Buck, Lanesborough, Berkshire county, Mass.; and Daniel T. Buck, Lowville, Lewis county, agent and proprietor for making and vending said machines, at all of which places it is intended to keep a supply on hand

Lowville, Nov. 24, 1835. nov 28-6m